

INVESTIGATION QUESTION

How does beak shape reflect a bird's ecological niche, and what does this tell us about how natural selection works?

HYPOTHESIS

Hint: try writing it as "If ____, then ____, because ____."

Beak Effectiveness Table

Beak Tool	Food Type Tested	Success Rate (1-5)	What Made It Effective or Ineffective
Eyedropper			
Chopsticks			
Nutcracker			
Tweezers			
Strainer			
Tongs			

ANALYSIS

What pattern do you notice between beak shape and the type of food it can access? What would happen to a bird with the wrong beak shape in a given environment?

CONCLUSION

Explain the connection between bird beaks today and the theropod dinosaurs they evolved from. What specific features were inherited and which were modified?

CONNECT IT

Research the Grants' study of Darwin's finches in the Galapagos. How quickly did beak shape change in response to drought? What does this tell us about the pace of evolution?

THINK FURTHER

If a new food source appeared in an environment (for example, a new plant with very hard seeds), predict what would happen to the beak shapes in a population of birds over many generations.

ADDITIONAL NOTES